United Nations E/2009/55

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2009

Original: English

Substantive session of 2009
Geneva, 6-31 July 2009
Item 13 (m) of the provisional agenda*
Economic and environmental questions: transport of dangerous goods

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and of its two subcommittees.

The present report concerns the work of the Committee of Experts during the biennium 2007-2008 and the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/6.

In accordance with that resolution, the secretariat has published the fifteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*.

All the main legal instruments and codes governing the international transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, road, rail or inland waterway have been amended accordingly, with effect from 1 January 2009, and many Governments have also transposed the provisions of the Model Regulations into their own legislation for domestic traffic for application from 2009.

* E/2009/100.

09-31423 (E) 210509

Please recycle

Many Governments and international organizations have revised or taken steps to revise existing national and international legislation in order to implement the Globally Harmonized System by the recommended target date of 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Committee adopted amendments to the Model Regulations and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, which consist mainly of new or revised provisions that concern listing, classification and packing of dangerous goods; transport in cryogenic receptacles; transport of fumigated freight containers; transport of radioactive material; transport of dangerous goods packed in limited quantities; metal hydride systems of storage of hydrogen; test requirements for explosives, pyrotechnic substances and lithium batteries; harmonization with the Globally Harmonized System; and the use of electronic data interchange for documentation purposes.

The Committee also adopted amendments to the Globally Harmonized System that concern mainly classification criteria for some physical hazards, hazards to the environment, hazards to health (chronic toxicity and respiratory and skin sensitizers) and hazards to the ozone layer. It completed the validation of the protocol on transformation/dissolution of metals and metal components in aqueous media. It issued a new set of combined hazard statements as well as guidance on the procedure of allocation of hazard statements and on the labelling of small packaging.

The Committee adopted a programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010; sessions for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and for the Committee have been planned for the period 2009-2010 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65.

The Committee is recommending a draft resolution on its work for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

Contents

		Page
I.	Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council	4
II.	Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/6	9
	A. Publications	9
	B. Implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations	9
	C. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	11
III.	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2007-2008	14
	A. Meetings held	14
	B. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	16
	C. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	17
IV.	Programme of work and schedule of meetings for the biennium 2009-2010	18

I. Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999 and 2007/6 of 23 July 2007,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2007-2008,[1]

A. Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe and secure transport of dangerous goods,

Noting the ever-increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce, and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling that, while the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport and many national regulations are now better harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee's recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, further work on harmonizing these instruments is necessary to enhance safety and to facilitate trade, and recalling also that uneven progress in the updating of national inland transport legislation in some countries of the world continues to present serious challenges to international multimodal transport,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

[1] E/2009/55.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods[2] to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the sixteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[3] and the fifth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[4] in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 2009;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe,[5] which provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned to take into account the recommendations of the Committee when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations;

5. *Requests* the Committee to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibilities of improving the implementation of the Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade, including through the further harmonization of international agreements or conventions governing the international transport of dangerous goods;

6. *Invites* all Governments, as well as the regional commissions and organizations concerned, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to provide feedback to the Committee regarding differences between the provisions of national, regional or international legal instruments and those of the Model Regulations, in order to enable the Committee to develop cooperative guidelines for enhancing consistency between these requirements and reducing unnecessary impediments; to identify existing substantive and modal international, regional and national differences, with the aim of reducing those differences to the greatest extent practical and ensuring that where differences are necessary they do not pose impediments to the safe and efficient transport of dangerous goods; and to undertake an editorial review of the Model Regulations and various modal instruments with the aim of improving clarity, user friendliness and ease of translation;

---

[2] ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.1 and Add.2.

[3] ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.16.

[4] ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.5.

[5] www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm.

B. Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that in paragraph 23 (c) of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6] countries were encouraged to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Bearing in mind also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Noting with satisfaction:

(a) That the Economic Commission for Europe and all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of transport or of the environment, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, have already taken appropriate steps to amend their legal instruments in order to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals before the target date of the end of 2008 or are considering amending them as soon as possible;

(b) That the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the Globally Harmonized System, in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety, pesticide management and the prevention and treatment of poisoning;

(c) That the Globally Harmonized System has already been in force in New Zealand since 2001 and in Mauritius since 2004;[7]

(d) That a new regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing the Globally Harmonized System in the member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area entered into force on 20 January 2009;[8]

(e) That other Member States participating in the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and

---

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] Information on implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by country and through international legal instruments, recommendations, codes and guidelines is available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe at www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html.

[8] Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 (Official Journal of the European Union, L 353 of 31 December 2008).

Labelling of Chemicals are actively preparing revisions of national legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System;

(f) That a number of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry, have organized or contributed to multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System;

Aware that effective implementation will require further cooperation between the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of Member States, cooperation with the industry and other stakeholders, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form[9] and on CD-ROM,[10] and its availability together with related information material on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe, which provides secretariat services to the Committee;[5]

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, the Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the amendments[11] to the second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the third revised edition[12] of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all the official languages of the

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.E.5 and corrigendum.
[10] Ibid., Sales No. E/F/S.07.VIII.4.
[11] ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.3.
[12] ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.3.

United Nations in the most cost-effective manner no later than the end of 2009 and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe;

(c) To continue to make information on the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe;

4. *Invites* Governments that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, workplace safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System through such instruments;

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals on the steps taken for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System in all relevant sectors, through international, regional or national legal instruments, recommendations, codes and guidelines, including, when applicable, information about the transitional periods for its implementation;

7. *Encourages* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular those representing industry, to strengthen their support for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance for capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

C. Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2009-2010 as contained in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Noting the relatively poor level of participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to promote their wider participation in its work,

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, calls, in that regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2011 on the implementation of the present resolution, the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

II. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/6

A. Publications

2. As requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2007/6, the Secretary-General prepared the fifteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*.[13] The edition was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (175 copies), Chinese (120 copies), English (3,920 copies), French (365 copies), Russian (220 copies) and Spanish (360 copies).

3. Amendment 2 to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[14] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (175 copies), Chinese (115 copies), English (2,385 copies), French (590 copies), Russian (215 copies) and Spanish (345 copies).

4. The second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*,[15] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (250 copies), Chinese (165 copies), English (2,725 copies), French (730 copies), Russian (245 copies) and Spanish (395 copies).

5. Combined versions of the *Model Regulations*, the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* and amendments 1 and 2 thereto and the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* were also published for sale on a CD-ROM containing the English, French and Spanish versions.[16]

6. The *Model Regulations*, the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* and amendments 1 and 2 thereto and the Globally Harmonized System are available online in all languages on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe.[5]

B. Implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations

7. In its resolution 2007/6, the Economic and Social Council invited all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take into account the recommendations of the Committee.

8. The provisions of the fifteenth revised edition of the Model Regulations[13] have been incorporated into the following international instruments:

---

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.VIII.1 and corrigendum.

[14] Ibid., Sales No. E.07.VIII.2.

[15] Ibid., Sales No. E.07.II.E.5 and corrigendum.

[16] Ibid., Sales No. E/F/S.07.VIII.4.

(a) International Maritime Organization (IMO): International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, amendment 34-08 (mandatory application for the 159 contracting parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea from 1 January 2010, with the possibility of application on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2009);

(b) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): 2009-2010 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (mandatory application for the 190 contracting parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation from 1 January 2009);

(c) International Air Transport Association: Dangerous Goods Regulations 2009 (fiftieth) edition (applicable from 1 January 2009);

(d) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (applicable from 1 January 2009, 45 contracting parties);

(e) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (applicable from 28 February 2009, 11 contracting parties);

(f) Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail: Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (appendix C to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail) (applicable from 1 January 2009, 43 contracting parties).

9. In the member States of the European Union, the provisions of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways will also apply to domestic traffic from 1 July 2009.[17]

10. The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) are applying an agreement on the inland transportation of dangerous goods (Acuerdo sobre Transporte de Mercancías Peligrosas en el MERCOSUR) based on the seventh revised edition[18] of the *Model Regulations*, the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, which is being updated on the basis of the twelfth revised edition.[19]

11. The Andean Community (Bolivia Plurinational State of, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) have developed draft regulations based on the thirteenth revised edition of the *Model Regulations*,[20] the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (2005) and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (2005), which are still under consideration.

---

[17] Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on the inland transport of dangerous goods (Official Journal of the European Union, L 260 of 30 September 2008).

[18] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.VIII.2.

[19] Ibid., Sales No. E.01.VIII.4.

[20] Ibid., Sales No. E.03.II.E.25 and corrigendum.

12. In 1997, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific published the *Guidelines for the Establishment of National and Regional Systems for Inland Transportation of Dangerous Goods*,[21] recommending the implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods. The transport ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed, on 20 September 2002, Protocol No. 9 to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. The Protocol provides for the simplification of procedures and requirements for the transit transport of dangerous goods in ASEAN countries, using the Model Regulations and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road.

13. In 1999, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon) adopted regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods by road that are partly based on old provisions of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road but that are not fully in line with the Model Regulations.

14. With respect to domestic inland transport of dangerous goods in individual countries, except as described above implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods may vary considerably depending on the national procedures for enacting law or updating regulations. For example, the regulations applicable in the United States of America (Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations) are normally updated on a yearly basis and they have been updated to reflect the fifteenth revised edition of the *Model Regulations*,[13] with very few exceptions. The Canadian regulations are based on the fourteenth revised edition[22] but consignes are authorized to use the classification and shipping names of the latest edition. The *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (seventh edition) is also based on the fourteenth revised edition of the *Model Regulations*. The twelfth revised edition[19] of the *Model Regulations* has been adopted as a national standard in Malaysia and has been implemented through national legislation in Brazil and Thailand.

15. Although international transport of dangerous goods is facilitated by the harmonization of the major international conventions and agreements concerning the transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations, and their simultaneous updating, the fact that certain national regulations applicable to inland transport are not brought into line simultaneously, or completely, is still causing problems in international trade, in particular in the case of multimodal transport. For that reason, the Committee has maintained in its draft programme of work an item on global harmonization of regulations on the transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations.

C. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

16. The World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,[6] encouraged countries to implement

[21] Ibid., Sales No. E.98.II.F.49.

[22] Ibid., Sales No. E.05.VIII.1 and corrigendum.

the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008.

17. Since the Globally Harmonized System addresses several sectors (transport, consumers, occupational health and safety and the environment), its effective implementation requires significant efforts from Member States to amend many existing legal texts concerning chemical safety in each sector or to enact new legislation.

18. In the transport sector, the Model Regulations have already been updated to reflect the relevant provisions of the second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System*. All the major international instruments listed in paragraph 8 above have also been amended accordingly for effective application in 2009, as have all national regulations that are based on those instruments or that are regularly updated on the basis of the Model Regulations.

19. In the other sectors, the situation is more complex, because implementation requires the amendment or revision of a considerable number of different legal texts and guidelines for application.

20. Legal instruments implementing the Globally Harmonized System have already entered into force in the following countries: New Zealand (2001), Mauritius (2004), Republic of Korea (2006) and all countries members of the European Union and the European Economic Area (January 2009).

21. Other countries, in particular all those which participate (either as full members or as observers) in the meetings of the Subcommittee of Experts of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (see also paragraphs 28-30 below) as well as Chile, Malaysia and Singapore, continue to revise and amend their legal texts, standards and guidelines to achieve implementation of the Globally Harmonized System as soon as possible.

22. In order to monitor the status of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System, the secretariat has placed on its website[5] all the information it has collected from countries. The website provides the possibility for Government administrations to update this information or to submit new information for the various sectors concerned. **All countries are therefore invited to provide such information, as indicated in paragraph 6 of part B of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 above.**

23. Direct technical advice and expertise have been provided to several other Member States by some members and by the secretariat.

24. A workshop on the Globally Harmonized System aimed at different sectors (transport, industry, customs and administration) was organized by the Ministry of Health of Chile (Santiago, April 2007).

25. With the financial support of several Member States, the European Commission and the private sector, several additional capacity-building and training activities were carried out, with the participation of experts from the Subcommittee, by various organizations and programmes, in particular:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization (UNITAR/ILO) Global Capacity-building Programme on the Globally Harmonized System and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Global

Partnership for Capacity-building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System for Chemical Classification and Labelling:

(i) National Globally Harmonized System workshops and planning meetings in Cambodia, China the Gambia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand and Viet Nam;

(ii) Regional workshops on chemical hazard communication and Globally Harmonized System implementation for ASEAN countries (Indonesia, May 2007), for public interest and labour organizations (Indonesia, May 2007) and for countries of the Economic Community of West African States (Nigeria, May 2008);

(iii) Second meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Global Partnership for Capacity-building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System (Geneva, July 2007);

(iv) Globally Harmonized System presentations at the third Arab Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (Bahrain, November 2008); the third Latin American Conference on Chemical Accidents and the second Meeting of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Centres (Argentina, November 2008); the sixth United Nations University/Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology Joint Programme Workshop on Sound Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Sustainable Energy (Republic of Korea, October 2008); Regional Workshop for the preparation of the second meeting of the ad hoc open-ended working group to review and assess measures to address the global issue of mercury (Qatar, June 2008);

(v) Development of resource materials: revised guidance document on preparing a national implementation strategy; training courses on the Globally Harmonized System; revised guidance on comprehensibility testing; country case studies on the legal implementation of the Globally Harmonized System; international Globally Harmonized System handbook; industry awareness-raising brochure; World Summit on Sustainable Development Global Partnership for Capacity-building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System annual reports;

(vi) Twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Capacity-building Programme advisory group, which were held back-to-back with those of the Subcommittee;

(b) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: sixth meeting of the Chemical Dialogue (Australia, June 2007) and follow-up meetings of various working groups where Globally Harmonized System implementation issues are under consideration;

(c) World Health Organization/ILO/United Nations Environment Programme (WHO/ILO/UNEP) International Programme on Chemical Safety:

(i) Review and update of the International Chemical Safety Cards to include Globally Harmonized System classification and labelling. To date, Globally Harmonized System classification has been included in 178 new or revised Cards;

(ii) Workshop on the Globally Harmonized System for the health sector in Nigeria (May 2008);

(d) UNEP Regional Office for West Asia:

(i) Regional training workshop on the Globally Harmonized System (Saudi Arabia, April 2008);

(ii) Globally Harmonized System promotion at the following meetings:

a. Second joint meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council groups on ozone, chemicals and customs (Saudi Arabia, May 2008);

b. Meeting of the Arab technical group on hazardous waste and chemical multilateral environmental agreements (Egypt, November 2008);

c. Arab symposium for sound management of chemicals (Syrian Arab Republic, November 2008);

(e) Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals: preparation of a guidance document to assist countries with the transition phase for Globally Harmonized System implementation.

26. The Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System has also continued its cooperation with treaty bodies that administer certain international conventions dealing with specific aspects of chemical safety in order to facilitate the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System through such conventions (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (see also para. 44 below)).

III. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2007-2008

A. Meetings held

27. The following meetings were held during the biennium 2007-2008:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: thirty-first session, 2 to 6 July 2007 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/62 and Add.1); thirty-second session, 3 to 7 December 2007 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/64); thirty-third session, 30 June to 9 July 2008 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/66 and Add.1); and thirty-fourth session, 1 to 9 December 2008 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/68);

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: thirteenth session, 9 and 10 July 2007 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 and Corr.1); fourteenth session, 12 to 14 December 2007 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/28); fifteenth session, 9 to 11 July 2008 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/30); and sixteenth session, 10 to 12 December 2008 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/32);

(c) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: fourth session, 12 December 2008 (ST/SG/AC.10/36 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3).

28. The following 29 countries participated in the work of the Committee as full members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals or of both Subcommittees: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic,[23] Denmark,[24] Finland, France, Germany, Ireland,[24] Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand,[24] Norway, Poland,[23] Portugal,[23] Qatar,[24] the Russian Federation,[23] Senegal,[24] Serbia,[24] South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

29. India, Mexico and Morocco, full members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Greece, Ukraine and Zambia, full members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, a full member of both Subcommittees, did not participate.

30. The Governments of Bulgaria,[23] Cambodia,[24] Ireland,[23] Jamaica,[24] Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic,[24] New Zealand,[23] Nigeria,[24] the Republic of Korea, Qatar,[23] Romania, the Russian Federation,[24] Slovakia,[23] Slovenia,[24] Switzerland, Thailand,[24] Tunisia,[23] Uruguay,[24] and Viet Nam[24] were represented by observers. The Commission of the European Communities, nine specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations and 50 non-governmental organizations also participated.

31. Liaison was maintained with the international bodies or organizations responsible for individual modes of transport, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (for inland transport in those regions), ICAO, IMO and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail.

32. The Committee paid special attention to the coordination of its own activities with those of other international organizations whose activities impinge on the field of transport of dangerous goods or of classification of chemicals, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ILO, WHO, UNEP, the Universal Postal Union, UNITAR and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to ensure that their work would complement, rather than duplicate or clash with, its own activities and recommendations.

33. Secretariat services were provided by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe.

[23] Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods only.

[24] Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals only.

B. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

34. During the biennium 2007-2008, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with the programme of work laid out in document E/2007/53, para. 43 (a).

35. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[25] to the fifteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* and to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* consisting mainly of new or revised provisions concerning:

(a) The listing and classification of some existing and new dangerous substances and articles and related packing methods and the revision of some packing and tank requirements;

(b) The transport of dangerous goods in cryogenic receptacles;

(c) The transport of fumigated freight containers;

(d) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the IAEA regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material;

(e) The transport of dangerous goods packed in limited quantities;

(f) New requirements for intermediate bulk packagings, large packagings and metal hydride storage systems for hydrogen;

(g) Test requirements for some explosives, pyrotechnic substances and lithium batteries;

(h) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, in particular for classification of environmentally hazardous substances;

(i) The use of electronic data interchange for documentation purposes.

36. The Subcommittee updated guiding principles intended to explain the rationale behind the provisions contained in the Model Regulations and to guide regulators when assigning transport requirements to specific dangerous goods. It considered that this work should be continued in the biennium 2009-2010.

37. The Subcommittee considered the issue of possible further measures to facilitate global harmonization of regulations on the transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations (see also para. 15 above). It agreed that additional efforts should be made to improve harmonization at the worldwide level. **In order to assess the problem more precisely, Governments and international organizations concerned are invited to provide feedback by drawing attention to requirements in their national, regional, or international instruments that deviate from the Model Regulations.**

38. Acting as the focal point for physical hazards as regards the development and updating of the Globally Harmonized System, the Subcommittee prepared proposals for new criteria, which were endorsed by the Subcommittee of Experts on the

[25] ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.1 and 2.

Globally Harmonized System and the Committee (see subpara. 41 (a) below). Work initiated as regards chemically unstable gases, substances which when in contact with water emit toxic gases, and desensitized explosives should be pursued in the biennium 2009-2010 (see also para. 42 below).

39. **The action recommended by the Committee to be taken by the Economic and Social Council with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods is reflected in part A, paragraphs 1 to 6, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

C. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

40. During the biennium 2007-2008, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with its programme of work laid out in document E/2007/53, paragraph 43 (b).

41. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[26] to the second revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* intended to update, clarify or to complement the System concerning, in particular, the following:

(a) Classification criteria for some physical hazards, for example aerosols, explosives, ammonium nitrate emulsions, suspensions or gels, oxidizing gases, flammable liquids and self-heating substances;

(b) Introduction of two new subcategories for respiratory and skin sensitizers;

(c) Classification criteria for mixtures;

(d) New criteria for the classification and provisions for labelling of substances and mixtures hazardous to the ozone layer;

(e) Review of the criteria for chronic toxicity of the aquatic environment;

(f) Completion of the validation of the protocol on transformation/dissolution of metals and metal compounds in aqueous media;

(g) New guidance on the precedence of allocation of hazard statements and a new set of combined hazard statements (and related codes thereto);

(h) New guidance on the labelling of very small packagings.

42. The Subcommittee considered that the work in the following areas should be continued in the biennium 2009-2010: development of classification and labelling criteria for chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures (including the determination of their chemical instability); review of test series 7; classification of desensitized explosives; assessment of water activated toxicity; implementation issues; improvement of annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Globally Harmonized System; and development of further guidance for the labelling of very small packagings.

[26] ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.3.

43. The Subcommittee kept under review progress made in the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System on the basis of reports submitted by its members and participating intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.[27]

44. The Subcommittee continued to cooperate with treaty bodies established under international conventions concerning chemical safety to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System through such conventions (see also para. 26 above).

45. **The action recommended by the Committee to be taken by the Economic and Social Council with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is reflected in part B, paragraphs 1 to 7, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

IV. Programme of work and schedule of meetings for the biennium 2009-2010

46. The Committee agreed that the programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010 should be as follows:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods:

(i) Explosives and related matters (including desensitized explosives and test series 7);

(ii) Listing, classification and packing (including classification of mixtures and solutions);

(iii) Electric 'storage systems (including lithium batteries and ultracapacitors);

(iv) Miscellaneous proposals of amendments to the Model Regulations (including transport of coolant/conditioning units);

(v) Electronic data interchange;

(vi) Cooperation with IAEA;

(vii) Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations;

(viii) Guiding principles for the Model Regulations (updating);

(ix) Issues relating to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System (including corrosivity criteria; criteria for substances which, in contact with water, emit toxic gases; and unstable gases);

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:

(i) Chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures;

[27] Information on implementation of the Globally Harmonized System by country and through international legal instruments, recommendations, codes and guidelines is available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe at: http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html.

(ii) Explosives and related matters;

(iii) Corrosion of metals;

(iv) Water activated toxicity;

(v) Editorial revision of chapters 3.2 and 3.3;

(vi) Issues related to the application of Globally Harmonized System criteria to the classification of substances and mixtures;

(vii) Implementation issues;

(viii) Improvement of annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Globally Harmonized System;

(ix) Labelling of small packagings (including work on packagings terminology and definitions);

(x) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the Globally Harmonized System in countries;

(xi) Continue cooperation with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on matters of common concern;

(xii) Strengthen and increase cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies and regional, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals, so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System through such instruments;

(xiii) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;

(xiv) Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, FAO and WHO/International Programme on Chemical Safety, through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources.

47. Bearing in mind that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65, the maximum number of meeting days allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is 38 (76 meetings), the Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for the period 2009-2010 should be as follows:

2009

22-26 June 2009: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, thirty-fifth session (10 meetings)

29 June-1 July (morning) 2009: Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, seventeenth session (5 meetings)

30 November-9 December (morning) 2009: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, thirty-sixth session (15 meetings)

9 (afternoon)-11 December 2009: Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, eighteenth session (5 meetings)

Total: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: 25 meetings; Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: 10 meetings

2010

21-30 (morning) June 2010: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, thirty-seventh session (15 meetings)

30 (afternoon) June-2 July 2010: Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, nineteenth session (5 meetings)

29 November-7 (morning) December 2010: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, thirty-eighth session (13 meetings)

7 (afternoon)-9 December 2010: Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, twentieth session (5 meetings)

10 December 2010: Committee, fifth session (2 meetings)

Total: Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: 28 meetings; Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: 10 meetings; Committee: 2 meetings

48. **Action recommended by the Committee to be taken by the Economic and Social Council with respect to its programme of work is reflected in part C, paragraphs 1 to 3, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**